SCS EC 2-2

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PAUL N. McCLOSKEY, JR.
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 30, 1978

SCS

The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary of State
2201 C. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to you on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Stoen, who are encountering difficulties in getting their child John Stoen back from the Rev. Jim Jones' Peoples Temple Agricultural Mission in Guyana, South America.

The Stoens were once members of Rev. Jones' San Francisco-based religious organization and temporarily left their child to be cared for by Agricultural Mission members in June 1977 in Guyana. Mr. Stoen worked at the Mission from February to June 1977. Now Rev. Jones refuses to allow John (age six) to rejoin his parents in San Francisco. Jones has repeatedly ignored and challenged the validity of California Superior Court orders declaring that the Stoens have joint legal custody of their son. The Stoens fear that Rev. Jones, who apparently has political influence with the Guyanese Government, will not return the child even after the Guyanese Court rules in the Stoens' favor on the custody matter (the decision is expected any day now).

Would you consider directing the U.S. Ambassador in Guyana to communicate the official concern of the U.S. Government in this matter to the Guyanese Government? Thanks for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul N. McCloskey, Jr.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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